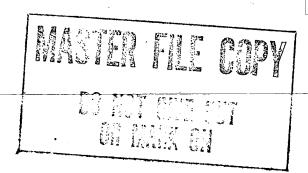


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Iran: Future Role in the World Oil Market

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An Intelligence Assessment

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Iran:				
Future	Rol	le i	n	the
World	Oil	M	ar	ket

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An Intelligence Assessment

This paper was prepared by Office of	25X1
Global Issues, with contributions from the Persian	
Gulf Division, Office of Near Eastern-South Asian	
Analysis, and the Economics Resource Division,	
Office of Imagery Analysis. It was coordinated	
with the Directorate of Operations	25 X 1
Comments and queries are welcome and may be	
directed to the Chief, Energy Issues Branch, Strategic	
Resources Division, OGI	25 X 1

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September 1983

Iran's desire to revitalize its economy and expand its influence in the Middle East has led Tehran to assign a high priority to restoration and expansion of its oil sector whether or not the war with Iraq ends. At present, Tehran's ability to raise production capacity substantially beyond 3 million barrels per day (b/d) is limited by a shortage of operating rigs and trained personnel. We believe Tehran will partially overcome these problems and succeed in raising capacity to at least 3.5-4 million b/d within the next two years. Although Iran's leaders may desire even higher output over the longer term, sustaining production much above the 4-million-b/d level would be constrained in our view by the massive investment costs, the need for extensive foreign assistance, and the declining deliverability of Iranian oil reservoirs. An attempt by Iran to raise production by 1-2 million b/d in the next year or so would have a destabilizing effect on OPEC and on oil prices. When the war ends, market problems will further intensify as Iraq also attempts to expand exports. Despite Tehran's current adherence to OPEC pricing guidelines, we believe Iran would again discount prices substantially below the OPEC benchmark to prevent its market share from eroding, especially if Iraqi exports were increasing. Iran and other OPEC members realize the dangers of a potential collapse in oil prices and may reach an accommodation to prevent a downward price spiral. Much of the burden in adjusting OPEC production would have to fall on Saudi Arabia. Given the political animosities between Iran and other Gulf producers, however, a long-term production sharing agreement is by no means assured, and, if no agreement is reached, oil prices will fall.	запшией Сору Аррго	ved for Release 2010/06/09 : CIA-RDP85T00283R000100030004-0 Secret	25 X ′
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Iran:		
Future Role in the		
World Oil Market		25X1
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Introduction	The prolonged shutting in of oilfields and the lack of	
Iran was OPEC's second-largest oil producer before the 1979 revolution, producing more than 5 million	regularly scheduled maintenance of surface facilities has been the primary cause of the decline in produc-	
b/d in 1978. Under the Shah, Tehran had embarked	tion capacity. More than 50 percent of capacity has	
on an ambitious oil development and maintenance	been shut in. because	25X1
program designed to expand productive capacity to	of clogging of wells and corrosion of surface equip-	20/(1
7 million b/d or more by the early 1980s. The	ment such as gathering lines and gas-oil separating	
program was shelved in the wake of the Shah's fall.	plants (GOSPs), extensive repairs will be required	
The loss of key oil personnel and maintenance capa-	before production can be restored. Based on well data	
bilities after the revolution, together with some small	in industry journals and information on field produc-	05)/4
damage to production and export facilities during the	tion levels	25X1 25X1
Iran-Iraq war, has caused field capacity to decline.	we estimate that some 150 wells within the major fields and another 140 wells in	25X1
production capacity has fallen to about 3 million	the smaller fields have been shut in since the revolu-	25X1
b/d. Recent indications suggest, however, that Iran is	tion. These wells will require workover service before	20/(1
taking steps to revitalize its oil industry. The degree to	they can be brought back on stream. In addition to	
which Iran is able to restore production and the	the shut-in wells, we estimate that the 215 currently	
timing of such a restoration will have a major impact	producing wells will also require workover servicing	05)//
on OPEC and the world oil market.	periodically. Although pumps, compressors, and pipelines are also in peed of reasing most find.	25 X 1
Effects of the Revolution and War	lines are also in need of repair in most fields, redundant capacity in the	25X1 25X1
Oil production fell sharply from 5.2 million b/d in	oil transport system makes this less of a constraint to	25 X I
1978 to less than 3 million b/d following the funda-	higher production.	25X1
mentalist revolution and below 1.7 million b/d in the		
early months of the war with Iraq. Although the	Current Iranian Oil Strategy	
revolution caused no damage to oil production facili-	Iranian decisions on oil strategy will be influenced by	
ties, the turmoil from worker strikes, loss of foreign personnel and experienced Iranian managers, and a	a wide range of political, economic, and military considerations. Among these factors will be:	
general policy of forgoing oil revenues forced the drop	• The need to finance postwar reconstruction, includ-	
in production. As time passed, numerous shut-in wells	ing renewed industrial development projects.	
began to deteriorate, gradually eroding oil-production	• The perceived security threat and associated spend-	
capacity. Additional facilities were shut down at the	ing requirements for rebuilding the military and	
beginning of the war with Iraq to minimize potential	making strategic facilities (especially within the oil	
damage resulting from Iraqi attacks. Even though the	sector) less vulnerable.	
war has gone on for nearly three years, imagery analysis indicates that damage to Iranian oil facilities	Wells that have been shut in for lengthy periods of time often	
has been negligible. Nonetheless, we estimate that	become clogged and require servicing before reopening. To service	
Iranian production capacity has declined to about	such wells chemicals are often injected to clean out the well, and in many instances specialized rigs are used to remove and replace well	
3 million b/d from prerevolution levels of 6 million	casing or recomplete bottom openings of the well.	
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Prerevolution Oil Development Plan ^a	·	
Because of the production maturity of most of Iran's major oilfields, the former foreign operating company (OSCO) planned to implement secondary recovery programs and new development to maintain the 1978 capacity of about 6 million b/d. Remaining fields, including all those offshore, were to be further developed and were expected to contribute another 1 million b/d of capacity for a few years before	Fractures in Iranian reservoirs have also created production problems in some fields because of contact with underlying water formations. As these fields are produced, water flows into the reservoir and eventually into the producing wells. Normally, either the well invaded by water is shut in and a replacement well is drilled, or a workover is performed to recomplete the bottom opening of the existing well above the water level. About 50 to 60 new well completions—includ-	, ,
Onshore. Most of Iran's major fields had experienced rapid declines in natural reservoir pressure, resulting	ing replacement wells and workovers—were per- formed annually before the Iranian revolution. Some 40 drilling rigs were operating in 1978, and OSCO	25X ⁻
from high rates of production from the late 1960s through 1978. To slow the decline in reservoir pressures, OSCO had devised a massive scheme for collecting gas and injecting it into all of Iran's largest oilfields. Under OSCO's 1979-83 plan, gas injection would have started at 34 billion cubic meters (bcm) annually and risen to 69 bcm annually by 1983. Marun and Gachsaran would have received more than 70 percent of the planned gas injection, which would have sustained peak production rates for one to three years. Development of several new gasfields and natural gas liquids recovery plants were planned	planned to keep 32 rigs working through 1983. OSCO's blueprint also called for the installation of 26 desalting plants by yearend 1979 to remove water from the crude. These expensive plants, with a total fluid capacity of nearly 2.4 million b/d, would have greatly reduced the number of wells that would otherwise be shut in because of excess water production. OSCO also planned a small effort to develop 20 discovered but nonproducing oilfields. Only one would have produced more than 20,000 b/d, and the combined contribution was to have been only 184,000	25X ⁻
as part of the injection program.	b/d in 1983. Small reserves elsewhere in the country were to be developed by NIOC to provide oil for local	25 X ′
The program would have involved long leadtimes and required massive expenditures for advanced technol-	needs.	25 X
ogy and high-pressure equipment. A much simpler and less costly water injection system to maintain pressure would have been ineffective in Iranian reservoirs. Unlike most other oilfields in the Middle East, most of Iran's major oil reservoirs contain large fractures through which oil flows from tighter oil-	Offshore. foreign companies producing the offshore oilfields did not see much potential for expanding capacity in their concessions. To slow the declines in then-existing capacity, several of these fields were scheduled for secondary recovery programs. Gas lift and water	25X
saturated rock formations, and injected water would merely be recycled through the fractures within the	injection at Sassan was planned and partially imple- mented before the revolution. Sirri was also sched-	25X1 ⁻
reservoir.	uled for a water injection program.	25X ²
		25X′
• The assessment of the country's oil resource base,	The desire to wield greater influence in the region	

- pletion, and recovery rates.
- The condition of the international oil market and the importance attached to the prestige and power associated with being a major player in OPEC.

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Our analysis of Iranian press articles shows that only recently has	Aldhamah maad Tura' a' a' l	25X1
Tehran considered reviving, in part, oil production goals planned prior to the revolution. The resurgence in oil exports during 1982 has fueled modest economic	Although most Iraqi airstrikes against Khark have been ineffective, recent press statements by Iraqi officials of intentions to escalate attacks, coupled with Iraq's acquisition of French	25 X 1
growth, replenished financial reserves, and enabled the regime to begin focusing its attention on longer term economic goals. According to Iranian press	Super Etendard aircraft, will likely give added impetus to Iranian security plans.	25X1
articles, although differences over economic policy among various clerical factions within the regime still abound, an expansive development agenda formulated by one of the factions is increasingly gaining hold. ² Further, as the war becomes less of a politically		25 X 1
unifying force, we believe the government will need to provide evidence of economic progress to all levels of the Iranian populace.		25 X 1
		20/(1
We believe that Iran's financial requirements for its new five-year restoration and development plan—estimated by us at \$50-60 billion—will make revitalization of its petroleum sector a priority before the end of the war. Oil production of 3.5-4 million b/d at present prices would bring in sufficient revenues over the period to meet projected spending requirements. As a result, we believe reopening of shut-in wells and repair and maintenance of major production facilities will be the regime's most important economic objective in the next year or so. Over the longer term, Iran must implement secondary recovery programs and develop new fields if it plans to reach and maintain		
production rates above 4 million b/d.		25X1 25X1
Security concerns are also motivating Tehran to plan new oil projects. Foremost among Tehran's fears is the potential closure of its only major oil export		
terminal at Khark Island.		25X1 25X1
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War Damage

Iran's oil transport and delivery system has suffered only limited direct damage as a result of the war. Imagery analysis indicates that Iraqi airstrikes early in the war damaged the Gurreh pump facility—a strategically located and vulnerable facility which feeds crude from the mainland to the Khark Island export facility. The large capacity of the station, including the capability to gravity feed 2-4 million b/d of crude to Khark, has allowed Iran to continue exports with only temporary interruptions. Imagery analysis indicate that sporadic airstrikes on Khark Island itself have been ineffective because of Iranian defenses and the poor performance of Iraqi pilots. The attacks have destroyed less than 20 percent of tank storage capacity and closed down one of the two main berthing facilities for only short periods. Because of organizational and manpower problems, we estimate that only 50 percent of the Khark Island terminals' current rated capacity of 10 million b/d is operational, an amount still well in excess of present production capacity.

Based on imagery analysis, minor damage also occurred to refineries and pipelines. A pump station along the Esfahan-Tehran pipeline and several refineries were attacked early in the war. With the exception of the Abadan refinery, most of these facilities were repaired quickly. The Abadan refinery has suffered damage mostly to tank farms; the major distillation units apparently remain intact, although strafing damage may have occurred. Because of the refinery's proximity to Iraq and its vulnerability to attack, Iran will probably dismantle and relocate the facility once the war ends.

While recent Iraqi attacks at the Now Ruz and Ardeshir offshore oilfields caused some damage to platforms, including the leakage of 4,000 to 7,000 b/d of crude, overall Iranian oil production capabilities were little affected.

the attacks caused Tehran to further shut in production in northern offshore fields. Costs of capping and cleanup operations to the fields could be expensive, however, totaling perhaps \$50 million,

Restoration Capabilities

Tehran has demonstrated the capability to produce about 3 million b/d, and our engineering estimates indicate that they could continue at this level for the next three years without significant change in their present method of operation. To sustain this rate longer or reach even higher production capacity levels, Tehran must overcome the problems that have plagued its industry since the revolution:

The loss of experienced managers, worker interference with operational decisions, and a lack of coordination among the various agencies that acquire equipment and supplies have all had an adverse impact on operations.

- The collapse of NIOC's drilling program; the expulsion of foreign contractors left only 12 operable rigs.
- The pullout of foreign firms forced the cancellation of a number of oil-related projects, and outstanding debts are keeping several companies from renewing business with Iran.

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Table 1 Iranian Oil Facilities: Damage and Assessments as of July 1983

Facility	ty Date Date Damaged Repaired		Units Damaged	Units Repaired	Comments	
Abadan oil refinery	30 Sep 80		Asphalt plant, lube-oil plant, product-treating area	None	Crude oil distillation units appear intact, strafing possible	
			Water purification buildings, two cooling towers, 75 percent of storage capacity	None	Jul 83 update	
Ardeshir offshore oilfield 10 May 83		Three production unit platforms damaged, pipeline to flare severed on one	None	Jul 83—attacks reportedly continue		
Bandar-e Khomeyni Petrochemical plant	13 Oct 80				Plant was still under construction when the war broke out in 1980	
Bandar-e Mah Shahr gas plant and storage	28 Oct 80		Five crude oil tanks destroyed	Destroyed tanks removed	Gas plant operating	
Sirus offshore oilfield			Unknown	NA	Reported; no imagery to confirm	
Gurreh booster pump station	1 Oct 81	28 Oct 81	Main pumphouse damaged by fire	Some cleanup noted	Jul 83 update—operational status cannot be deter- mined from imagery	
Khark Island export terminal	1 Oct 80 10 Jan 82		Storage tanks, pipelines to the 10-berth T-jetty	Pipelines to T-jetty	An emergency pipeline to bypass the damaged area was completed by 10 Jan 82	
	16 Jul 82		One bunker fuel tank destroyed	None	NA	
	20 Aug 82		Additional storage tanks	None	NA .	
			NA .	NA	2 Oct 82 update—major pipelines to the T-jetty still unrepaired	
			NA .	Pipelines to T-jetty repaired	1 Jan 83	
			NA	NA	1 Jul 83 update—terminal operating; storage tanks have not been repaired	
Now Ruz offshore oilfield	2 Mar 83		Two production well platforms on fire, one damaged	None	Attacks reportedly continue	
			H-pad damaged on processing platform	None	NA	
	14 Mar 83		No additional damage	None	Production well platforms still on fire	
Pump station 2, Marun-to-Esfahan pipeline			One of three pumping units damaged	NA	Damage occurred before 30 Jun 81	
Tabriz refinery	15 Oct 80		One LPG storage tank and adjacent pipeline, cooling tower punctured	Plant operating	Additional damage: admin building, storage tank, and steam plant destroyed	
	8 Nov 80		Hydrocracker and adjacent pipelines; minor damage to power plant	None	NA	
		23 Nov 80	NA .	Power plant operating	Refinery still not operating	
		10 Dec 80	NA	Hydrocracker and hydrogen plant back in operation	Refinery back in operation	
	7 Jul 81	18 Jul 81	Damage to water treatment plant	Repaired and back in operation	Refinery operating on 18 Jul 81	

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Table 2 Prerevolution Personnel Strength of OSCO and NIOC a Number of persons

	Employees on Annual Salary		Employees on Daily	Total	
	Iranian	Foreign	Pay	13,294	
Fotal	4,427	653	8,214		
Management and administration	2,382	145	3,790	6,317	
Technical affairs	405	134	163	702	
Exploration	69	43	53	165	
Petroleum engineering	180	56	105	341	
Planning, information service, and management	156	35	5	196	
Operations	1,244	245	3,124	4,613	
Field	431	22	835	1,288	
Drilling	58	108	4	170	
Services and maintenance	643	52	2,178	2,873	
Other	112	63	107	282	
Engineering and construction	396	129	1,137	1,662	

a Excludes offshore oilfields.

NIOC has recently begun reorganizing its managerial structure and upgrading personnel policies. Attempts are being made to attract senior oil personnel back into the country, and several companies for drilling, offshore operations, and foreign equipment acquisition have recently been created. Iran reportedly has also given high priority to the acquisition of spare parts for rigs to perform well workovers.

In addition, the Iranian Drilling Company reportedly has drawn up a work plan with a specific focus on overcoming the managerial and labor problems,

Meanwhile, to facilitate acquisition of equipment, Tehran has established purchasing companies in London (KALA) and more recently in Duba

KALA has handled on the average at least					
\$100 million per month of oil-related equipment					
orders during the past year. This includes \$40 millio	n				
worth of drilling equipment each month. KALA has					
also been trying to locate and acquire drilling rigs, for					
both onshore and offshore.					

With implementation of these measures, we believe Tehran could raise output to about 3.5-4.0 million b/d within two years. The fact that Iranians are in the process of contacting several Western firms indicates that they probably recognize the need for some foreign assistance to implement many of the major new projects, such as the gas injection program and the new export terminal. Only with substantial foreign participation and major investment could Tehran maintain production capacity at the 4-million-b/d level through 1990 or even attempt to reach a capacity level of 5 million b/d within the next few years.3

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³ For further discussion of potential production outlook, see the appendix



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Outlook for Foreign Assistance

To reduce the problems of implementing such a complex development program, we believe Iran will increasingly turn to Western oil equipment manufacturers and engineering companies to help carry out production capacity restoration and expansion.

If recent trade journal reports are accurate, the Iranian Government is also making a major effort to settle privately the outstanding claims of the major international oil corporations it hopes to do business with in the near future, another sign of major investment plans. Recently Tehran concluded settlements with Shell and Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP) for \$42 million and \$333 million, respectively.

Political Considerations

The cost of reconstruction and development will be the primary factor influencing Iran's efforts to restore capacity to at least 4 million b/d during the next two years. Iran's ambition to spread its religious and political influence and its longstanding regional rivalries with Arab Persian Gulf states probably will reinforce these financial motivations to raise output.

Domestic political constraints and conservationist attitudes, however, make it unlikely that Tehran will attempt to rebuild capacity substantially above 4 million b/d and could even hinder its achievement of this level of output. The economic activists, the Followers of Iman's Line, have the support of Khomeini in proceeding with the current development plan, including an expansion of oil production capacity, but statements by opposition members indicate the support is delicate. We believe any attempt to expand capacity substantially beyond 4 million b/d would

face opposition from the more fundamentalist clerical factions because substantial foreign participation would be required to implement such a program. Indeed, the threat of retribution from conservatives in a post-Khomeini environment has for the moment intimidated a number of economic activists, including the Speaker of Parliament Rafsanjani, from pursuing an even more ambitious program. In the event that Khomeini's rule ends during the next few years, the development program is likely to flounder until a new clerical leadership emerges and sets a clear course.

Oil Market Implications

Even if the Iran-Iraq war does not end, we believe Iranian attempts to expand exports by 1-2 million b/d will pose a great threat to OPEC's ability to maintain prices over the next two to three years. While Iran has so far abided by the OPEC production accord of March 1983, its stated desire to return to higher production levels and its flagrant disregard for quotas last year suggest that Tehran may not hold the line for long. Because most market forecasters expect demand for OPEC oil to rise slowly to perhaps 22 million b/d through 1985, we believe the market probably will be unable to absorb any significant quantities of additional Iranian oil without offsetting cuts by other producers or a sizable reduction in oil prices. While a sizable drop in the world oil price could have a positive impact on the economies of oilimporting countries, it would also create severe financial problems for a number of oil producers—both OPEC and non-OPEC.

When the Iran-Iraq war ends, the addition of Iraqi crude will exert further downward price pressures on the market. Iran and other OPEC members are clearly aware of the dangers of a price collapse and may reach the necessary accommodation to prevent a downward price spiral. Avoiding a fall in prices, however, will depend largely on Saudi willingness to provide aid to Iraq and reparations to Iran as an inducement to limit postwar increases in oil exports.

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Alternatively, the Saudis could reduce their oil output to make room for increased Iranian and Iraqi oil sales. In both cases the effort to keep the market stable would be expensive for the Saudis, given the potential size of Iranian and Iraqi exports.

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Preventing a price collapse will be further complicated by the political animosity between Iran and its Persian Gulf neighbors. Tehran probably will opt to reach a higher level of capacity as a means to influence OPEC decisions as well as to obtain economic leverage to promote its regional political objectives. At the minimum, we doubt that Iran would sit by idly while Iraqi exports and revenues increased substantially. Tehran would likely use its added production capability to drive a hard bargain in OPEC circles and to compete vigorously in the market to force Iraq to limit its exports. At the same time, Tehran must take into consideration that it would also be a likely loser in an oil production and pricing war with its neighbors because of the substantial surplus capacity and large financial reserves that exist in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Corporation Council states. Given the animosity between Iran and its Persian Gulf neighbors, however, a long-term agreement on oil production quotas is by no means assured.

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Figure 5

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Appendix

Production Capabilities Through 1990

Iranian reservoirs are capable of supporting production well above the current rate of 2.5 million b/d. To achieve these higher rates in the near term, Iran must reopen shut-in fields and repair surface facilities. Iran could also reduce separator pressures at its major gasoil separation plants, causing an increase in output as the higher pressured reservoirs forced more oil up to the lower pressured surface units. Over the medium term, however, Iran must drill new wells, implement secondary recovery programs, and install desalters (water removers) to maintain higher rates of production. Without implementation of these measures, deliverability of Iranian reservoirs would fall below 3 million b/d by the late 1980s.⁵

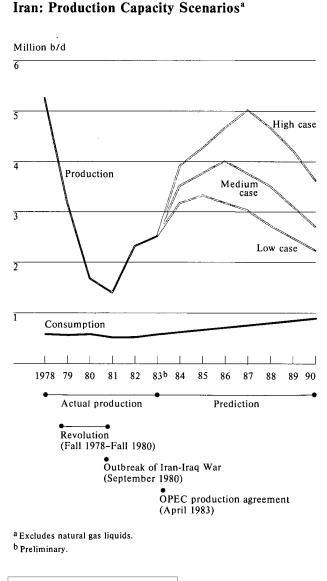
We have analyzed three distinct production scenarios for the performance of Iranian reservoirs through 1990 using data based on alternative levels of production and investment. Because operational facility capacity is currently well below that of reservoir capacity, we have gradually phased in the reopening of shut-in fields through 1985, on the basis of our assumptions as to the number of wells Iran could drill.

Low Production

Our analysis shows that, if no further drilling or secondary recovery operations take place and if surface facilities are returned to prerevolution conditions,

'Production deliverability of a reservoir refers to the production capacity of the reservoir itself. Available operational capacity takes into consideration the number of open wells and the capacity of surface processing facilities such as gas-oil separation plants and distribution lines to produce and deliver oil. Because of well closures or defective surface facilities, operational capacity will invariably be considerably less than the production deliverability of the reservoirs.

To analyze the longer term performance of the Iranian reservoirs, we have used a material balance model that measures the effects of reservoir pressures and movements of the gas-oil and water-oil contacts on production in the six largest Iranian oilfields—Ahvaz, Marun, Gachsaran, Agha Jari, Bibi Hakimeh, and Abu ol Fares. The model reduces or eliminates well flows as reservoir pressures drop or as wells are invaded by water or gas. Production from Iran's remaining oilfields is assumed to follow normal decline curves based on comparisons with historical production data for similar



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Table 3 Iranian Oilfields

	Sep 1978 Capacity	Nov 1979 a Production	Mar 1983 Production	Remaining Reserves Jul 1980 (million barrels)
	Thousand b	/d		. (million barrels)
Total	6,641	3,567	2,650	58,000
Onshore	5,921	3,102	2,371	56,000
Marun	1,380	684	667	10,230
Ahvaz	1,370	871	516	8,430
Gachsaran	1,000	616	478	10,790
Agha Jari	630	357	302	7,060
Bibi Hakimeh	327	96	157	2,360
Abu ol Fares	250	0	44	1,430
Other	964	478	207	15,700
Karanj	265	0	0	NA
Rag-e Safid	238	133	107	NA
Pazanan	105	133	69	NA
Kupal	70	0	0	NA
Binak	.60	21	0	NA
Khark b	50	40	0	NA
Naft Safid	33	29	0	NA
Lab-e Safid	27	23	0	NA
Mansureh	23	17	31	NA
Dehloran	23	22	0	NA
Chashmeh Khush	20	34	0	NA
Naft-e Shah	20	12	0	NA
Chilingar	10	0	0	NA
Masjed-e Suleyman	10	8	0	NA
Par-e Siah	4	2	0	NA
Haft Gel	3	4	0	NA ,
Ramin	3	0	0	NA
Offshore	720	465	275	2,000
Sassan	200	142	165	NA
Ardeshir	150		0	NA
Fereidoon	140		65	NA
Daryush	70	211	0	NA
Sirus	30		0	NA
Sirri	35	38	20	NA
Rakhsh	30	24	0	NA
Rostam	20	36	25	NA
Now Ruz c	20		0	NA
Bahrgan Sar	15	38	0	NA
Hendijan	10		0	NA

^a Estimated from associated gas production data for onshore fields.

b Partially offshore. c Current leakage, 4,000 to 7,000 b/d.

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Iran could produce 3-3.5 million b/d for no more than four years before production drops off because of pressure declines. A failure to reopen shut-in fields or to repair deteriorated equipment would keep production capacity at lower levels.

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Medium Production

By resetting separator pressures on major GOSPs to lower levels, Iran could immediately raise its production capacity by about 0.5 million b/d, to 3.5-4.0 million b/d. Our analysis indicates that this level of production could be sustained for three years if Tehran starts a modest gas injection program by 1985 in the Marun and Gachsaran fields and drills 25 new production wells in existing fields. Only with greater levels of gas injection and additional well drilling could production at this level be extended until 1990.

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High Production

An attempt by Iran to produce at levels substantially above 4 million b/d would require a major financial effort—one which we believe is far beyond Iran's capability—and extensive foreign participation. With a greatly accelerated workover schedule to bring currently shut-in fields on stream and implementation of a full-scale gas injection plan at Marun and Gachsaran, Tehran could reach a production capacity of 5 million b/d by 1987. Based on existing proved reserves, however, such a rate would be unsustainable and production would decline sharply in the 1990s.

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